

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1673
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2000
CENTRAL GROUND WATER BOARD
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has directed the Government to constitute the Central Ground Water Board as a regulatory authority to check the indiscriminate boring and withdrawal of underground water in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the directions of the court are being implemented strictly;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) & (b) The Supreme Court of India vide its order dated 10.12.1996 had directed the Central Government to constitute the Central Ground Water Board as an Authority under Section- 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for the purpose of regulation and control of ground water management and development.

(c) to (e) In pursuance of the orders dated 10.12.1996 of the Supreme Court, the Government have constituted Central Ground Water Authority vide notification dated 14.01.1997. As per the notification, the Authority have to exercise the following powers:-

(i) Exercise of powers under Section-5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for issuing directions and taking such measures in respect of all the matters referred to in Sub-section (2) of Section-3 of the said Act.

(ii) To resort to the penal provisions contained in Sections 15 to 21 of the said Act.

(iii) To regulate indiscriminate boring and withdrawal of ground water in the country and to issue necessary regulatory directions with a view to preserve and protect the ground water.

Ever since its constitution, the Authority has adopted pro- active approach and is sensitizing users at various levels with regard to the need for judicious use and scientific management of ground water resources through mass awareness programmes. The Authority has notified certain areas in NCT of Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Diu with a view to control depletion in ground water level.